Local Government Training Events and Information

Registration and links to details about the following can be accessed online at www.ipa.udel.edu/events.html.

- Planning Series
  IPA has been offering its series of planning-related classes at the Paradee Center in Dover, each from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Participation in these classes counts as credit toward the Certificate in Local Government Leadership as well as the Delaware Planning Education Certificate. Registration is due a week before each date.
  - May 3  Mobility-Friendly Design
  - May 16  Board of Adjustment Issues
  - November 8  Housing for Delaware: Balancing Community Needs

- New Mayor and Council Member Seminar
  This fall IPA will once again be offering a training seminar that is primarily for newly elected mayors and council members. It also provides an opportunity to network with other local elected officials and qualifies participants for certificate credit in the Academy for Excellence in Local Government Leadership.

MWDG Meetings

The Delaware Municipal Web Developers Group will meet on July 26, 2007, from 1:00–3:30 p.m. in Dover and on the last Thursday in October. See the MWDG website (www.ipa.udel.edu/mwdg) for statewide status, website development resources, and meeting minutes.

New Funding and Technical Assistance Resource Now Online

Is your local government seeking funds to improve the quality of your community? Does your municipality need to leverage existing funds to adequately finance a budgeted project? What state agencies offer technical assistance to help municipalities develop essential community programs, services, or facilities?

If these questions have been on your mind, then make sure to check out the 2007 edition of IPA's Funding and Technical Assistance Handbook for Delaware Local Governments (now available online as a link at www.ipa.udel.edu/resources/government.html—just right-click on the link provided to download the PDF document). The handbook is an excellent resource for Delaware local governments that are seeking assistance in the form of grants, loans, technical help, and advisory services. It provides information on state programs, federal programs that traditionally provide assistance to local governments in Delaware, and University of Delaware public service programs.

In February as a public service, IPA provided and distributed, free of charge, one hardcopy of the handbook to each Delaware local government, state legislator, and cooperating state agency.
NLC Municipal Practices Resource

National League of Cities’ Online Municipal Practices Resource is Now Available to All

Are you considering a new municipal program or management practice? Do you want to avoid “re-inventing the wheel”? A search of the National League of Cities’ City Knowledge Network (www.nlc.org/about_cities/cityknowledgenetwork.aspx) should be your starting place. This Network is your pathway to City Practices, a searchable online collection of more than 5,000 local government programs and practices covering a multitude of topics.

Each listing includes a brief description that outlines the basic program and specific contact information for a city official from whom you can learn more. For example, suppose you were interested in researching the disposal of surplus property through an on-line auction site. A quick search on the term “auctions” in the City Practices database would bring up the listings for online auction programs from Overland Park, Kan.; Marietta, Ga.; Nashville, Tenn.; Plano, Tex.; Huntley, Ill.; La Mirada, Calif.; Riverside, Calif.; Harris County, Tex.; and Baltimore, Md. The City Knowledge Network is a publicly available site; membership in the NLC is not required.

Delaware Planning Update

Healthy and Walkable Communities Initiative

In partnership with the University of Delaware’s Department of Health, Nutrition, and Exercise Sciences, IPA has begun working with several Delaware towns in an effort to improve the pedestrian environment and opportunities for physical activity. IPA is initially working with Townsend in order to identify current barriers to walking as they plan for the integration of a new park into the town. With public health research consistently linking health implications to Americans’ increasingly sedentary lifestyle, IPA expects to work with many of Delaware’s towns in developing strategies to improve their residents’ ability to live healthier, more active lifestyles.

Local Economic Development Work

IPA is currently working with the Greater Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Georgetown to develop a regional market study. The study will help the Chamber and the Town in their economic development efforts by identifying current and future market opportunities in the retail trade and personal and professional services sectors. Work on this project is being conducted as part of IPA’s efforts to broaden its economic-development assistance to Delaware’s local governments.

2007 Delaware GIS Conference

The annual Delaware GIS conference has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 2, at the Dover Sheraton, and stresses the importance of applying GIS technology to the broad set of issues confronting public, private, and nonprofit entities. More details on the conference can be found at www.degis.org.

DLLG Directory Updates

The Delaware League of Local Governments online directory (www.ipa.udel.edu/localgovt/dllg), draws an average of nearly 400 page requests per day, so it’s vital that it contain the most up-to-date information about your municipality. If your town has any updates or corrections to its information, please contact IPA immediately. DLLG will again be offering a printed version in September.

For more information, contact Julia O’Hanlon by phone (302-831-6224) or email (jusmith@udel.edu).